

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
DEORALI, GANGTOK**

No. 204/KNP-KBR/WL/Forests/2009**Date: 24.05.2010**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas in pursuance of the general description of the boundary of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve declared vide Ministry's letter No. No.J-22016/76/91-BR, dated 07.02.2000, the definition of boundaries of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve and National Park were amended as suggested by the Survey of India; And whereas since the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve is located in a trans-boundary Himalayan range, the western and the north-west boundary taken is India – Nepal and India – China international boundary and for the remaining areas, Reserve Forest line, as per Topo-sheets (Survey of India) and prominent structures, natural boundaries, like streams, rivers, ridges, peaks and mountains etc. have been taken as the boundary line of the Biosphere Reserve;

And whereas the last notification of the year 2000, the total area of the Biosphere Reserve was 2619.92 Km², out of this, an area of 1784 Km² forming Khangchendzonga National Park and 835.92 Km² around this Park comprises the buffer zones, respectively; Now therefore, in view of current inclusion of an additional transition zone, the State Government is hereby please to notify the details of the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve as follows:-

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE KHANGCHENDZONGA BIOSPHERE RESERVE INCLUDING TRANSITION ZONE

A UNESCO nomination document for the inclusion of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in the world network of Biosphere Reserves (MAB) was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India from the Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim, through G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kosi-Almora [with Sikkim unit of the institute] for its consideration by the UNESCO, in the year 2007.

As per the earlier notifications, the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve covers 2619.92 Km² areas comprising of two major zones, namely Core (1784 Km², as a National Park) and buffer zone (835.92 Km², comprising of four parts).

However, as per the new scheme (a requirement suggested by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO), as communicated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, the establishment of a Transition Zone, where the management structure of the department comprising civil society and other stakeholders play an effective role, would be mandatory.

The transition zone of the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has been identified and marked, with joint exercise carried out by the KBR directorate of State Forest Department and the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (Sikkim unit), in order to cover all the fringe villages which have direct or indirect dependency on the adjoining buffer zones. In order to effectively manage the KBR, participation of the people is a must, by involving them from the forest fringe villages in various forestry activities, including, seasonal works, eco-tourism, protection and conservation of natural resources, which may bring the sense of ownership among the people. As well, in majority of the places within these areas the private lands and forest lands are so closely positioned, i.e. almost intermixing, thus, the chances of encroachment of forest areas are extremely high. Consequently, the management of the Biosphere Reserve with a limited and handful of forest frontline staff would become quite difficult without involving the people of the fringe villages. Therefore, by declaring a transition zone, the concept of co-existence of nature and human-being while respecting the needs of each other would be fulfilled.

In view of above, for Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, a Transition Zone, comprising of 44 villages distributed in the periphery of the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve, located in north, west and south districts of Sikkim, covering 311.20 Km² is being notified. The revised version of KBR, including the notified transition zone has the following description regarding geographical setting and boundaries.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES of KHANGCHENDZONGA BIOSPHERE RESERVE (CORE ZONE, BUFFER ZONE AND TRANSITION ZONE)

The Western limit of Biosphere Reserve follows the India-China boundary in the Lhonak Chu valley in North Sikkim and India-Nepal boundary in the remaining portion. The northern limit follows the boundary of the notified Khangchendzonga National Park reaching up to the confluence of Goma Chu and Naku Chu and includes Lungnak La and the area west of Thangu. In the east, it is bounded by the areas west of Teesta River from Thangu to Toong and in the south, it includes the reserved forests above Toong, Tholung valley, Hee, Taryang, Karchi, Yuksom Labdang, Khechepalri, Chhange up to Singalila Range covering the catchments of Tinguypung, Monmu, Kayam, Relli, Prek, Rimbi and Kalej rivers and streams.

3. THE CORE ZONE

The Khangchendzonga (High Altitude) National Park forms the Core Zone of the Biosphere Reserve. The western limit of Core Zone-I follow the India-China boundary in the Lhonak Chu valley in North Sikkim and India-Nepal boundary in remaining portion. In the North, East and South the boundary limits will be in accordance with the State Government's Notification No.KNP(WL)F/27 dated 19 May 1997 in respect of the Khangchendzonga National Park. The area of the Core Zone is 1784.00 Km².

4. BUFFER ZONE

BUFFER ZONE-I: Portions of Lhonak valley (Trans-Himalayan Zone-cold desert area) which is part of the catchment area of Lhonak Chu, a tributary of Tista River. It is bounded by Lungnak, a ridge in the North, Teesta River in the East, and Zerna in the South, Naku Chu.

The area of the Buffer Zone- I is 154.48 Km²

BUFFER ZONE-II: Area falls in the west of Chungthang Valley and Teesta River from Lachen Ridge to Pakel outside the Core Zone.

The area of Buffer Zone-II is 55.29 Km²

BUFFER ZONE-III: Portions of Tholung Valley in the Dzongu Watershed area, catchment area of Tholung Chu.

The area of Buffer Zone-III is 29.37 Km².

BUFFER ZONE-IV: The western limit of Buffer Zone-IV follows the India-Nepal boundary. The northern boundary is the Core Zone of the Biosphere Reserve while the eastern limit is bounded by the RF boundaries of Hee and Taryang. The southern limit follows RF boundaries of Chchange, Khechopalri, Yuksom, Labdang Karchi and the northern boundary of Maenam wildlife Sanctuary. Buffer Zone-IV included the principal catchment areas of Ringyong Chu, Monmu Chu, Kayam Chu Relli Chu, Prek Chu, Rimbi Khola and Kaley which form the tributaries of two main rivers of Sikkim, the Teesta and Rangit Rivers.

The area of Buffer Zone -IV is 596.78 Km²

5. TRANSITION ZONE (Newly added)

PART-I (AREA: 28.58 Km²): The Western boundary starts at near Sokpâkha, and spreads all along College Khola upto the confluence point of College Khola and Khorong Khola. The boundary runs along Khorong Khola upwards and before joining to Geyzing Dentam road the villages includes are Tikzyak, Rabdentse, Yangtey, Bhaluthang, Pelling, etc. in the Pemayantse Monastery area.

PART-II (AREA: 111.15 Km²): The boundaries stretch from the Chchange Reserve Forest along Wasung Khola up to the confluence point of Rimbi Khola and Wasung Khola. Further, the western boundary runs along Rimbi Khola up to the confluence point of Rathong Chu; and from Rimbi Khola, running along Rathong Chu, it spreads up to the point from where old foot path starts towards the ridge of Tashiding, and crosses approximately 1 Km above Tashiding bazaar. The boundary further runs along the foot path and joins Rangit River, and then it stretches along River Rangit upwards and follows the Bermeli Khola up to the boundary of Brang Reserve Forest, including Sada- Phamtam villages in south Sikkim.

PART-III (AREA: 171.47 Km²): Southern and northern boundaries: These boundaries start from Brang Reserve Forest, running along Kau Khola between Lingi and Lingmo up to the confluence point of river Teesta and Kau Khola and further runs along River Teesta via Lum Village; also, the boundary runs along the River Teesta crossing confluence point of the River Kanaka and River Teesta at Naphrikdang, stretching upto Chungthang at the confluence point of Lachung Chu and Lachen Chu. Including Chungthang bazaar, the boundary runs all along the highway (road maintained by Boarder Road Organization) via Mensithang reaching up to Bensoi Bridge. The boundary further extends along the River Teesta via Zema – I, running up to the Thangu at the confluence point of Lasha Chu and Lachen Chu/River Teesta. The Transition zone includes Thangu village, and subsequently and the boundary further runs towards Muguthang, along the foot path upto Lhonak Lha, and ends at the Naku chu near Munguthang.

A population of 35,757 representing 8,353 households, the transition zone offers greater opportunities for the communities to participate in the conservation management and eco-developmental activities of KBR. The list of fringe villages in the proposed transition zone are provided as Annexure-I (2 page)

The Transition zone, as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, on Protection, development, maintenance and research in Biosphere Reserves in India (2007) has the following aspects to deal with:

- A Transition Zone is the outermost part of a Biosphere Reserve.
- The transition zone is usually not delimited one and is a zone of co-operation where conservation, knowledge and management skills are applied and uses are managed in harmony with the purpose of the Biosphere Reserve.
- The transition zone includes settlements, crop lands, managed forests and area for intensive recreation, and other economic uses characteristic of the region.
- As in the case of Buffer zone, in the transition zone also, experimental research areas are used for understanding the patterns and processes in the ecosystem. Modified or degraded landscapes are included as rehabilitation areas to restore the ecology in a way that it returns to sustainable productivity.

After incorporating the transition zone, the updated area of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, covering core zone, buffer zones and the transition zone, would be 2,931.12 Km², with following details:

6. DELINEATION AND TOTAL AREA OF CORE ZONE, BUFFER ZONE AND TRANSITION ZONE

(a.)	Area of Core Zone: (Khangchendzonga National Park)	1784.00 Km ²
(b.)	Area of Buffer Zone: (i) Buffer Zone – I: (ii) Buffer Zone-II: (iii) Buffer Zone-III: (iv) Buffer Zone-IV:	154.48 Km ² 55.29 Km ² 29.37 Km ² 596.78 Km ²
	Total Buffer Zone:	835.92 Km²
	Total area of Core & Buffer zones:	2,619.92 Km²
(c)	Area of Transition zone: (i) Transition zone Part I : (ii) Transition zone Part II: (iii) Transition zone Part III:	28.58 Km ² 111.15 Km ² 171.47 Km ²
	Total area of Transition zones:	311.20 Km²
	Total area of KBR [(a) Core, (b) Buffer and (c) Transition zone]:	2,931.12 Km²

7. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE KHANGCHENDZONGA BIOSPHERE RESERVE, NAMELY:-

- (a) The core and buffer zone and manipulation activities which may be permitted in the buffer zone will be in conformity with general guidelines for management of biosphere reserves.
- (b) A Transition Zone, where the management structure of the department comprising civil society and other stakeholders play an effective role, would be mandatory
- (c) The core zone of the Biosphere Reserve will be kept absolutely undisturbed.
- (d) The constitution of the Biosphere Reserve by itself will not in any way change the status of legal ownership of land and forests nor affect the rights of tribal and local people in any way.
- (e) State Government will constitute a Biosphere Reserve Management Committee at the state level in accordance with the guidelines for ensuring scientific management of the Biosphere Reserve
- (f) Government of India will provide financial assistance for approved items of expenditure included in the Management Action Plan to be prepared by the Government of Sikkim..
- (g) The Government of Sikkim will set up a local committee for coordination of the activities for the various departments in the BR area
- (h) The Government of Sikkim will nominate an officer as Director of the Biosphere Reserve. He/She may be an existing functionary who may not necessarily be an exclusive functionary for this purpose.

BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR

**S.T. LACHUNGPA, IFS
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS-SECRETARY
FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK**

**FILE NO.204/KNP-KBR/WL/FORESTS,
WORLD HERITAGE SITE (UNESCO - MAB net)**

Annexure-I

Villages within the Proposed Transition Zone of KBR along the Household Numbers and Village-wise Population

A. WEST SIKKIM:

Sl. No.	Name of Village	No. of Households	Population	Household size
1.	Maneybong -Sokpakha	156	946	6.0
2.	Karmatar	140	736	5.3
3.	Bangten	108	644	6.0
4.	Sardong-Lungzick	115	706	6.1
5.	Singyeng	102	592	5.8
6.	Darap	256	1398	5.5
7.	Nambu-Chowri	146	859	5.9
8.	Melli	116	623	5.4
9.	Melli-aching	109	589	5.4
10.	Khechuperi	114	556	4.9
11.	Topung	52	286	5.5
12.	Chojo	89	476	5.3
13.	Timrong	91	420	4.6
14.	Sindrang	55	325	5.9
15.	Yuksam	364	1951	5.4
16.	Dubdi	69	402	5.8
17.	Labing	179	1043	5.8
18.	Gerethang	176	1026	5.8
19.	Arithang	141	847	6.0
20.	Chongrang	240	1387	5.8
21.	Gangyap	99	627	6.3
22.	Kongri	71	442	6.2
23.	Labdang	80	456	5.7
24.	Dhupidara	76	493	6.5
25.	Mangnam	64	380	5.9
26.	Norkhola	82	508	6.2
Total of West Sikkim.		3290 Nos.	18718 Nos	

B. SOUTH SIKKIM:

Sl. No.	Name of Village	No. of Households	Population	Household size
27	Sada	24	156	6.5
28	Phamtam	98	601	6.1
29	Brong	179	1105	6.2
30	Lingi	270	1580	5.9
31	Shokpey	73	389	5.3
Total of South Sikkim.		644 Nos.	3831 Nos.	

C. NORTH SIKKIM:

Sl. No.	Name of Village	No. of Households	Population	Household size
32	Lachen	1609	2923	1.8
33	Lachen Forest Block	12	32	2.7
34	Chungthang	1567	3766	2.4
35	Chungthang forest Block	15	59	3.9
36	Shipgyer	166	695	4.2
37	Hee-Gyathang	208	1162	5.6
38	Gor	155	873	5.6
39	Lingthem	210	1161	5.5
40	Lingyza-Tholung	80	397	5.0
41	Lum	60	338	5.6
42	Sakyong-Pentong	41	196	4.8
43	Salim-Pakel	132	615	4.7
44	Tingvong	164	1001	6.1
Total of North Sikkim		4,419 Nos.	13,208 Nos.	
Grand Total		8,353 Nos.	35,757 Nos.	

Source: Census of India 2001

Note: a) Total No. of Household under KBR Transition Zone = 8,353 Nos.
 b) Total population under KBR Transition Zone = 35,757 Nos.
 c) Total No of villages under KBR Transition Zone = 44 Nos.

